

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 NIC-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /098 W

----- 088320

O P 141715Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2825

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5032

E.O. 21652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT CAMPORA: SITREP NO 8

1. CONGRESS EVENING JULY 13 ACCEPTED RESIGNATIONS OF PRESIDENT CAMPORA AND VICE-PRESIDENT SOLANO LIMA. IT THEN APPOINTED RAUL LASTIRI PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT UNDER LAW 252 OF 1868.

2. IN TELEVISED ADDRESS TO NATION, LASTIRI PRAISED CAMPORA GOVERNMENT AND EXPLAINED THAT RESIGNATION AND ACCOMPANYING STEPS WERE NECESSITATED BY FACT THAT CONDITIONS HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON MARCH 11 ELECTIONS WHICH HAD DISTORTED WILL OF THE PEOPLE. HE PROMISED TO CALL NEW ELECTIONS SHORTLY AND SAID THEY WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY FAIR AND WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS. MEANWHILE, HE ASSURED, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PURSUE THE SAME PROGRAMS ALREADY INITIATED BY THE CAMPORA ADMINISTRATION--SOCIAL TRUCE, PRICE CONTROLS, ETC.--AND WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES OF GENERAL PERON'S JUNE 21 SPEECH.

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3. COMMENT: OF ALL THOSE WHO APPEARED ON TV YESTERDAY, LASTIRI

CAME OFF THE BEST. IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, HE CARRIED HIMSELF WITH DIGNITY AND HIS WORDS WERE MEASURED AND REASSURING. HIS EMPHASIS ON PERON'S JUN 21 SPEECH IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT TENOR OF HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE ONE OF MODERATION.

4. PERON WENT ON TELEVISION IMMEDIATELY AFTER LASTIRI. HIS EXPLANATION FOR TURN OF EVENTS WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT OFFERED BY LASTIRI (AND EARLIER BY CAMPORA). HE DID NOT STATE THAT HE WOULD BE A CANDIDATE BUT THAT WAS CLEAR INFERENCE OF HIS WORDS (SEE SEPTTEL ON PERON SPEECH). IN TALKING WITH NEWSMEN EARLIER HE REFUSED TO BE PINNED DOWN BUT DID NOT DENY THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT CANDIDACY, AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING JOINT TICKET WITH BALBIN HE STATED HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE EXCELLENT TICKET IF THE PEOPLE WANTED IT. "I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR DR. BALBIN AND WOULD GO ANYWHERE WITH HIM," HE COMMENTED.

5. BALBIN, MEANWHILE, IS BEGINNING TO ACT LIKE A CANDIDATE, THOUGH HE CONTINUES TO SAY THAT HIS PARTY WILL HAVE TO DECIDE. THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A FACADE. HE MUST INDEED GET HIS DUCKS IN A LINE WITHIN THE UCR BEFORE HE CAN ACCEPT. THERE ARE STRONG ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY WHICH FAVOR A JOINT PERONIST-UCR TICKET, BUT THE ALFONSIN FORCES ARE GENERALLY OPPOSED. IN FACT, ALFONSIN, ALONG WITH FRANCISCO MANRIQUE (APF), ARE VIRTUALLY ONLY MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES SO FAR TAKE NEGATIVE POSITION WITH RESPECT TO CAMPORA'S OUSTER, BOTH DESCRIBING IT AS "REGRETTABLE."

6. ONE OF EMBASSY'S UCR CONTACTS COMMENTED LAST NIGHT THAT IT STILL TOO SOON TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT BALBIN CAN WIN PARTY'S APPROVAL TO RUN ON JOINT TICKET WITH PERON. CONTACT WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER. HE COMMENTED THAT MANY OF HIS FRIENDS WERE FAVORABLY INCLINED BECAUSE IT FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT AT SOME POINT DURING NEXT FOUR YEARS, BALBIN WOULD BE LEFT AS PRESIDENT. SUCH A TICKET WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF PRODUCING CONSENSUS AND STABILITY THAN ANY OTHER HE COULD THINK OF, HE CONCLUDED.

7. THERE WERE ONLY TWO CABINET CHANGES. BENITO P. LLAMBI REPLACED ESTEBAN RIGHI AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND AMBASSADOR ALBERTO J. VIGNES REPLACED JUAN CARLOS PUIG AS FOREIGN MINISTER. BOTH RIGHI AND PUIG WERE LEFTISTS. LLAMBI AND VIGNES ARE CONSERVATIVES.
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THIS, THEN, STACKS THE CABINET OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF MODERATE-
CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN PARTY. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR BIO ON TWO NEW MINISTERS).

8. WHILE LASTIRI DID NOT INDICATE PRECISELY WHEN HE WOULD CALL ELECTIONS, PRESS REPORTS HE MAY DO SO NEXT WEEK AND THAT ELECTIONS THEMSELVES WOULD BE HELD END OF AUGUST.

KREBS

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